but none can driue him from the enuious plea
of forfaiture, of iustice, and his bond.

Iessi. When I was with him, I haue heard him sweare
to *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his country-men,
that he would rather haue *Anthonios* flesh
then twentie times the value of the summe
that he did owe him: and I know my lord,
if law, authoritie, and power denie not,
it will goe hard with poore *Anthonio*.

Por. Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble?

Bass. The deerest friend to me, the kindest man,
the best conditiond and vnwearied spirit
in dooing curtesies: and one in whom
the auncient Romaine honour more appeares
then any that drawes breath in *Italie*.

Por. What summe owes he the Iew?

Bass. For me three thousand ducats.

Por. What no more, pay him six thousand, & deface the bond:
double sixe thousand, and then treble that,
before a friend of this discription
shall lose a haire through *Bassanios* fault.
First goe with me to Church, and call me wife,
and then away to Venice to your friend:
for neuer shall you lie by *Portias* side
vvith an vnquiet soule. You shall haue gold
to pay the petty debt twenty times ouer.
When it is payd, bring your true friend along,
my mayd *Nerrissa*, and my selfe meane time
vvill liue as maydes and widdowes; come away,
for you shall hence vpon your wedding day:
bid your freends welcome, show a merry cheere,
since you are deere bought, I will loue you deere.
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

Sweet Bassanio, *my ships haue all miscaried, my Creditors growe cruell, my estate is very low, my bond to the Iewe is forfaite, and since in paying it, it is impossible I should liue, all debts are cleerd betweene you and*

and I if I might but see you at my death: notwithstanding, vse your pleasure, if your loue do not perswade you to come, let not my letter.

Por. O loue! dispatch all busines and be gone.

Bass. Since *I* haue your good leaue to goe away,
I will make hast; but till I come againe,
no bed shall ere be guiltie of my stay,
nor rest be interposer twixt vs twaine.

Exeunt.

Enter the *Iew*, and *Salerio*, and *Anthonio*,
and the Iaylor.

Iew. Iaylor, looke to him, tell not me of mercie,
this is the foole that lent out money gratis.
Iaylor, looke to him.

Ant. Heare me yet good *Shylock*.

Iew. Ile haue my bond, speake not against my bond,
I haue sworne an oath, that I will haue my bond:
thou call'dst me dogge before thou hadst a cause,
but since I am a dog, beware my phanges,
the Duke shall graunt me iustice, *I* do wonder
thou naughtie *Iaylor* that thou art so fond
to come abroade with him at his request.

An. I pray thee heare me speake.

Iew. Ile haue my bond. I will not heare thee speake,
Ile haue my bond, and therefore speake no more.
Ile not be made a soft and dull eyde foole,
to shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yeeld
to christian intercessers: follow not,
Ile haue no speaking, *I* will haue my bond.

Exit Iew.

Sol. It is the most impenitrable curre
that euer kept with men.

An. Let him alone,
Ile follow him no more with bootlesse prayers.

hee

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22296) LONDON, 1600 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C.12.g.11) Octavo